

Pool 7/24/66

Justice Aide Doubts Threat

By Wilbur Martin
Associated Press
Deputy Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday that anti-Viet nam war activities "can hardly be considered a threat" to national security. He said there is no need for new laws to deal with them.

Members of the House Committee on Un-American Activities sharply disagreed about the need for new laws.

"The fact there have been no prosecutions show this need," Rep. Joe R. Pool, (D-

Tex.) said as the Committee ended public hearings on anti-war groups and activities.

The special subcommittee that held the hearings—enlivened by heckling, shouting and the physical ejection of one attorney and more than 50 spectators—approved a bill unanimously and the full Committee will act on it today. Pool said the measure was amended to strengthen it against charges of unconstitutionality.

The subcommittee struck from the bill a provision that

would have provided penalties for anyone who urged, advised or counseled others to violate the measure.

Severe Penalties

The bill as adopted by the subcommittee makes it a criminal offense, punishable by up to 20 years in prison, for Americans to send property or money to those "in hostile opposition" to the U.S. ARMED FORCES.

Clark testified at the closing hearing before the Subcommittee's action.

"There is no need for new

legislation because a panoply of laws, state and Federal, presently protects the national interest."

"However reprehensible, indeed irrational, much of the conduct of those who endeavor to interfere with our efforts to protect world freedom in Vietnam may be, it can hardly be considered a threat," he added.

Clark said no troop trains have been stopped, and no American aid—money or otherwise—has actually reached

in War Protests

the Vietcong, the South Vietnam guerrillas.

"Essentially, the Vietnam obstructionist movement has been a propaganda effort," he declared. "That such a tiny handful of people could secure so much attention in so vast a Nation by what has largely been eccentric behavior, is in itself a cause for concern."

"If you're inferring we're paying too much attention to this problem, I disagree," Rep. Richard Ichord, (D-Mo.), snapped.

"Some witnesses have testified they are Communists and have utter contempt for this country," Pool declared.

Clark argued the proposed bill could infringe on constitutional rights.

"The important thing," he said, "is that no aid has reached the enemy. The armed forces have not been interfered with."

Local Law Held Adequate

Clark testified state and local law enforcement has been adequate to cope with what

he called isolated activities aimed at blocking troop trains.

He said no Federal police force is needed or wanted.

Clark was asked by Rep. John H. Buchanan Jr., (R-Ala.) "If we pass the legislation — and I predict the house will because the American people are overwhelmingly for it—can we count on the Justice Department to move on prosecutions?"

"We," enforce any law passed by Congress," Clark replied.